



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

NORTHWEST TEXAS HOSPITAL
1201 LAKE WOODLANDS DR SUITE 4024
THE WOODLANDS TX 77380

Respondent Name

Texas Mutual Insurance Co

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 54

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-13-2545-01

MFDR Date Received

June 6, 2013

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "In the present matter, the Claimant was suffering from a recent onset of low back pain. It is reasonable to assume that this led the Claimant to believe that a delay in treatment would put him/her at risk of "serious dysfunction on any body organ or part."

Amount in Dispute: \$335.96

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Texas Mutual declined to issue payment because the admission did not meet the criteria for a medical emergency at Rule 133.2."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Co

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
July 7, 2012	Outpatient Hospital Services	\$335.96	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.2 defines an emergency
3. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
 - W1 – WORKERS COMPENSATION STATE FEE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT
 - 899 – DOCUMENTATION AND FILE REVIEW DOES NOT SUPPORT AN EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 133.2
 - 724 - NO ADDITIONAL PAYMENT AFTER RECONSIDERATION.

Issues

1. Does the disputed service(s) meet the definition of emergency service?
2. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier denied disputed services with reason code, 899 – “DOCUMENTATION AND FILE REVIEW DOES NOT SUPPORT AN EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 133.2”. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.2(4)(A) states that, “a medical emergency is the sudden onset of a medical condition manifested by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in: (i) placing the patient’s health or bodily function in serious jeopardy, or (ii) serious dysfunction of any body organ or part.” The medical documentation does not meet the definition of an emergency pursuant to §133.2(4)(A). For example:
 - a. Emergency Physician Records page 2 of 2 shows “no acute distress”.
 - b. Emergency Documentation page 1 of 2 shows “onset/duration for 10 days”.
2. Review of the submitted documentation finds that the onset was not sudden and patient not in acute distress. Therefore, definition of emergency not met. No payment can be recommended.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

October 2, 2013
Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, effective May 31, 2012, 37 *Texas Register* 3833, **applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.**

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the Division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the Division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.